

RESOLUTION A – ENCOURAGE CREATION CARE

Resolved, that this 40th Convention of the Diocese of El Camino Real encourage all congregations to celebrate Earth Sunday on the Sunday closest to Earth Day and the Season of Creation from September 1 to St. Francis' Day each year; and to educate and engage in the care of creation with special emphasis on the climate crisis and our role as God's stewards; and be it further Resolved, that clergy and lay leaders shall encourage households within their congregations to take immediate and ongoing action to live a responsible sustainable lifestyle and to reduce their carbon footprints, using tools such as The Episcopal Church's carbon tracker Sustain Island Home.

Explanation

Climate change is affecting everyone in this diocese through increased severity of drought and lightning storms or fire or degraded air quality from smoke.

Clearly, the environmental crisis is getting worse and 97% of scientists agree that global warming is caused by human activity. Global warming is causing extreme weather events and rising sea levels. Those who are the poorest on the planet are the first to suffer the consequences and the least able to withstand the changes. Thus climate change is not only an environmental issue but one of social justice.

Climate change affects every other social justice issue.

Our baptismal vow to seek to serve Christ in all persons and to strive for justice and peace calls us to take this situation very seriously. It is a moral imperative. In this country, 40% of greenhouse gasses (NOAA) are generated by choices we make in individual households, including the use of fossil fuels, so the way we choose to live makes a big difference. The urgency of the situation means that we can no longer wait for others to act. We must change and change now.

Earth Day has been celebrated for the past 50 years and the Season of Creation for 20 years. The Anglican Communion encourages the observance of Creationtide, and the Presiding Bishop has identified Creation Care as a key mission priority. The Episcopal Church has provided liturgical resources for this season to assist us in placing Creation at the center of our worship and at the forefront of our awareness during this time of global crisis.

The Partnership Commission will provide resources describing ways to reduce carbon emissions. These resources will include potential partners already active in creation care, tools that estimate our individual contributions to greenhouse gases that contribute to climate change (such as Sustain Island Home) and services that can help individuals and congregations reduce their carbon footprint.

Proposers

The Rev. Mary Blessing, the Rev. Caroline Hall, the Rev. Dcn. Tina Heidmann, the Rev. Wilma Jakobsen,

Bill Shreve, Steve Sosnowski, the Rev. Roger Wharton, and The Partnership Commission. 40 th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of El Camino Real November 7, 2020